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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Algeria*, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular chapter 17, section G of Agenda 21, 1/ relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 47/189 of 22 December 1992 and 48/193 of 21 December 1993,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that those States will be constrained in meeting such challenges without the cooperation of the international community,

Having considered the report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ which was held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994 and included a high-level segment on 5 and 6 May 1994,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its Preparatory Committee provided for the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and its specialized agencies at a high level, and also provided for the participation of observers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations from all regions of the world,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Barbados for the hospitality extended to the participants of the Conference and for the excellent facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 2/

2. Endorses the Declaration of Barbados, 3/ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 4/ as adopted at the Conference on 6 May 1994;

3. Notes with satisfaction the summary of the high-level segment, which focused on the theme "Forging partnerships for sustainable development"; 5/

4. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement all commitments reached and recommendations made at the Conference and to take the necessary action to give effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including ensuring the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV of the Programme of Action;

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda).

3/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

5/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), annex III.

5. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action; 6/

6. Welcomes, in particular, the progress made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in identifying focal points and other similar mechanisms to coordinate the action they are taking to implement the Programme of Action;

7. Welcomes the preparation by the United Nations Development Programme of studies on the feasibility of developing a technical assistance programme 7/ and an information network 8/ for the small island developing States;

8. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to continue to carry out its mandate as the lead agency in organizing the efforts of the United Nations system towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels as set forth in Agenda 21 and in fostering the United Nations collective thrust in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, particularly through its network of country offices;

9. Further invites the United Nations Development Programme to:

(a) Initiate the implementation of the technical assistance programme for small island developing States by preparing a directory, as specified in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action, and undertake further consultation with small island developing States and other interested parties to determine the most effective means of implementation of the technical assistance programme;

(b) Coordinate further interregional and intraregional consultations between relevant technical experts of small island developing States and other interested States, agencies and relevant organizations to further elaborate the information network for small island developing States and determine the most effective means of implementing it, taking into account the requirements of the technical assistance programme and the Programme of Action;

10. Calls upon the international community to participate in the consideration of the feasibility studies through consultation processes with a view to supporting fully efforts to put the technical assistance programme and the information network into operation;

6/ A/49/425 and Add.1.

7/ A/49/459, annex.

8/ A/49/414, annex.

11. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) To make arrangements for monitoring and reviewing, in a distinct and identifiable manner, and in the context of its multi-year thematic programme and its annual consideration of cross-sectoral issues, the implementation of the provisions agreed upon in the Programme of Action;

(b) To carry out in 1996 an initial review of the progress achieved and steps taken to implement the Programme of Action;

(c) To recommend, in the context of the overall review of Agenda 21 in 1997, specific modalities for a full review of the Programme of Action in 1999, including the question of convening a second global conference, in accordance with chapter 17, section G of Agenda 21;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to enable relevant regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the implementation of the Conference outcomes at the regional and subregional levels by, inter alia, providing the necessary autonomy and adequate resources to their subregional offices and operational centres, in accordance with paragraph 134 of the Programme of Action taking into account the decentralization process;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. Commends the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for the efficient manner in which it serviced the preparations for the holding of and reporting on the Conference;

15. Further requests the Secretary-General to establish within the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development a clearly identifiable, qualified and competent entity with the resources and number of professionals and support staff that are necessary to undertake its broad range of functions in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action, relying on the most efficient and cost-effective use of resources, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to arrange for the wide and effective dissemination of the Programme of Action;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on action taken to implement the present resolution and on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and in that regard also requests the Secretary-General to invite those organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms to enable them to respond effectively in the implementation of the Programme of Action.